

A NEW SPECIES OF *SERICUS* ESCHSCHOLTZ (COLEOPTERA: ELATERIDAE:  
LUDIINAE) FROM INDIA<sup>1</sup>

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(With four text-figures)

**Key words:** New species, *Sericus* Eschscholtz, Elateridae, India.

*Sericus bicarinatus* sp. nov. is described and illustrated. The features distinguishing it from its allied species *S. lahaulensis* Vats and Chauhan have been commented upon.

INTRODUCTION

Genus *Sericus* Eschscholtz is characterized by having frons broader than long; labrum entire, mandibles dentate; prothorax broader than long, posterior margin with lateral furrows; prosternopleural sutures simple, parallel; elytra with rounded extremities; aedeagus longer than parameres and parameres with subapical processes. With the discovery of a new species from Himachal Pradesh, Vats and Chauhan (1992) recorded *Sericus* for the first time from India. To this genus, we are adding a new species which has been recorded from Nagaland (India). Though this species was collected from the leaves of *Bambusa* sp., the host plant is uncertain.

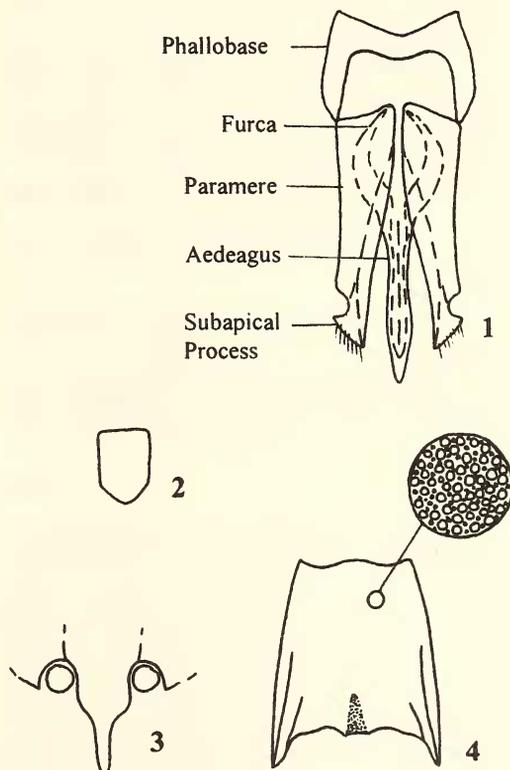
Type material will be deposited at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Division of Entomology, Pusa National Collection, New Delhi, India.

*Sericus bicarinatus* sp. nov.  
(Figs. 1-4)

**Colour:** Body piceous; antenna and legs fuscoferruginous.

**Measurements:** Body length 11.5 mm, width 2.5 mm; head length 1.25 mm, width 1 mm; antenna 5.5 mm; second segment 0.15

mm; third segment 0.3 mm; fourth segment 0.5 mm; last segment 0.6 mm; thorax length 2.25 mm, width 2.5 mm; elytra 7.75 mm.



Figs. 1-4: *Sericus bicarinatus* sp. nov.:  
1. Male genitalia; 2. Scutellum; 3. Prosternal spine;  
4. Pronotum.

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**External features:** Body width less than 0.25x its length. Head flat, longer than broad as 5:4; frons with incomplete frontal carina; antenna extending beyond posterior angle of pronotum; segment 3 longer than 2 as 6:3 but shorter than 4 as 3:5; mandible dentate. Pronotum convex, broader than long as 10:9, gradually narrowing anteriorly (Fig. 4); posterior angle rounded, bicarinate, outer carina reaching middle of pronotum, inner carina short; prosternal spine pointed, without any medial glabrous line, declined from its main axis at 25°, emarginate, abruptly narrowing at base (Fig. 3). Scutellum flat, longer than broad as 3:2, anterior margin straight, posterior margin arcuate (Fig. 2). Elytra convex, 3.44x prothorax length; striae distinct. Metabasitarsus longer than following 2 joints combined as 8:7.

**Sculpture:** Head with simple, dense, large, hexagonal punctation; pronotum (Fig. 4) with double, dense, rounded punctation; propleurae with simple, dense, oval punctation; prosternum with simple, scattered, rounded punctation; elytral striae with deep, distinct, oval punctation; interstriae with scattered, fine, inconspicuous punctation.

**Pubescence:** Body covered with moderate, slanting, brownish red pubescence.

**Male genitalia:** (Fig. 1) Phallobase with anterior margin emarginate; parameres with

subapical processes with deep concavity behind; aedeagus longer than parameres, constricted in middle, with conical apex; furcae short, not reaching anterior margins of parameres.

**Material examined:** *Holotype:* Male, Nagaland, Zunheboto, 1874 m, 10.v.1994, under light Coll. Punam. *Paratypes:* 1 male and 2 females with same data as holotype.

**Distribution:** INDIA: Nagaland.

**Diagnostic combinations:** Characters distinguishing this species from its allied species *S. lahaulensis* are: posterior angles bicarinate (unicarinate in latter), antennal segment 3 shorter than 4 (longer in latter), pronotum with double, dense punctation (simple, sparse in latter) and prosternal spine with medial longitudinal glabrous line (without line in latter).

**Etymology:** The species name pertains to two carinae present on posterior angles of prothorax.

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#### REFERENCE

Vats, L.K. & R.L. Chauhan (1992): New species of Ludiinae (Coleoptera: Elateridae). *J. Ent. Res.* 16(3): 189-192.

